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latter. Leslie's letters are written with even greater ease and simplicity than his Recollections, and, like them, contain many striking bits of criticism, and not a few amusing anecdotes. The collection covers nearly the whole period of his second residence in England, and, though less complete than we could have desired, it adds much to the value of the book.

Mr. Taylor has discharged his editorial duties in a very creditable manner. He has prefixed a carefully prepared essay on Leslie's pictures, including a critical examination of his most celebrated works, and some just observations on his general characteristics as a painter and a writer on Art; and he has added a few explanatory notes, and a chronological list of Leslie's principal pictures.

7.—*Memorials of THOMAS HOOD.* Collected, arranged, and edited by his Daughter. With a Preface and Notes by his Son. Illustrated with Copies from his own Sketches. Boston: Ticknor and Fields. 1860. 2 vols. 16mo. pp. xviii. and 310, 327.

It is a difficult and delicate task which he assumes who undertakes to write the life of a near relative. To a biographer the temptation is always great to magnify the virtues which he records, and even to defend the faults which every one else perceives; but when he is not only exposed to these disturbing influences, but is also allied to the subject of his memoir by close domestic ties, the difficulties with which he has to contend are greatly increased, and strict impartiality is seldom or never attained. It is not surprising, therefore, that Hood's children should not have escaped these perils of biography, and that some abatement must be made from their estimate of their father. But they have written with so much modesty and simplicity, and there is so much that was beautiful in his character and life, that few persons will feel any regret that we owe these Memorials to the promptings of filial affection, or will feel disposed to take much exception to the portrait which they present.

Hood's position in English literature is somewhat peculiar. He does not hold a very high rank either as a poet or as a prose-writer; yet he has always enjoyed a large measure of popularity, and his death was deeply and widely felt. His writings overflow with wit and humor; yet his most celebrated production, "The Song of the Shirt," owes its power to its deep and unaffected pathos, and his own life was a sad one. He was born, as nearly as his children can ascertain, on the 23d of May, 1799, and he died on the 3d of May, 1845; and almost the whole of

the comparatively brief period subsequent to his arrival at manhood was given to literary pursuits, under circumstances which would have crushed a heart less courageous and hopeful. During his whole life he suffered from a severe and wasting illness, and his last sickness was one of great and protracted suffering. At the same time he often felt the pressure of pecuniary embarrassments; and it was when his spirits were weighed down by these depressing influences that most of his humorous pieces were written. It is no small praise to say, that under such influences he wrote nothing hollow or artificial, and that, notwithstanding his frequent exaggerations, it is easy to see behind all his writings a true, loving, and gentle heart.

In the preparation of these Memorials the larger part of the labor has devolved on his only daughter, Mrs. Broderip, who has discharged her self-imposed task in a manner worthy of much commendation. Her own recollections of her father were sufficiently distinct to enable her to record many incidents from her personal knowledge of them; and she has made a judicious selection from her father's letters and other manuscripts, though she has fallen into the common error of biographers, and has printed much that is trivial and uninteresting. Her narrative is composed with modesty and good taste; and the Preface and Notes by her brother throw considerable new light on Hood's life and character.

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8. — *History, Theory, and Practice of the Electric Telegraph.* By GEORGE B. PRESCOTT, Superintendent of Electric Telegraph Lines. Boston: Ticknor and Fields. 1860. 12mo. pp. xii. and 468.

NOTWITHSTANDING the great change which the invention of the electric telegraph has wrought in all social and political relations, few persons are familiar with either its history or its practical operation; and the want of a compendious treatise on the subject has long been felt. This want it is Mr. Prescott's purpose to supply; and the most cursory examination of his book will show how well qualified he is for the task, and how skilfully he has discharged it. Many years of study and observation have made him a master of all the important principles and details, and he has stated the results of his investigations with a simplicity and clearness which render his volume intelligible to general readers, as well as useful to those who have a more intimate acquaintance with the subject. It comprises everything relating to the telegraph which the great majority of readers will care to know, while its orderly arrangement and its copious Table of Contents and Index make